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WASHINGTON (AP) - A FORMER ASSOCIATE OF CONVICTED WEAPONS DEALER
EDWIN WILSON SAID TODAY THAT WILSON HAS CONTINUED TO TRY TO SHIP
EXPLOSIVES TO THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION WHILE IN JAIL.
INTERVIEWED IN WASHINGTON ON NBC-TV'S ''TODAY'' SHOW, ALEXANDER
RAFFIO SAID THAT WILSON, WHO HAS BEEN IN CUSTODY SINCE HIS CAPTURE BY
U.S. AUTHORITIES LAST JUNE 14, ''HAS BEEN IN WEEKLY CONTACT WITH HIS
ENGLISH OFFICE, WHICH IS RUN OUT OF WALES NOW, AND HE HAS BEEN MAKING
ARRANGEMENTS TO DO THAT (TRANSFER THE EXPLOSIVES).''
WILSON, A FORMER CIA AGENT, WAS SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON
EARLIER THIS MONTH FOR SHIPPING ARMS TO LIBYA.
HE IS BEING HELD AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION IN THE NEW YORK AREA,
AND LIKE OTHER FEDERAL PRISONERS, WAS SAID TO BE ALLOWED ONE 10-MINUTE
CALL A DAY WITHOUT BEING MONITORED.
NBC NEWS REPORTED TUESDAY NIGHT THAT RAFFIO TOLD FEDERAL
INVESTIGATORS THAT WILSON DIVERTED THREE FIVE-GALLON DRUMS FILLED WITH
PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES TO ROTTERDAM FROM A SHIPMENT DESTINED FOR LIBYA IN
1979.
THE NETWORK SAID WILSON THEN CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF TURNING THE
EXPLOSIVES OVER TO THE PLO TO ''GAIN SOME BROWNIE POINTS WITH THE PLO
WHO, AT THAT POINT, HAD OFFERED TO PROTECT HIM AND SAVE HIM FROM
BEING GRABBED BY THE UNITED STATES.''
ALTHOUGH WILSON WAS CONVICTED IN NOVEMBER ON WEAPONS SMUGGLING
CHARGES, HE STILL FACES THREE MORE TRIALS, ONE IN HOUSTON ON CHARGES
OF ILLEGALLY EXPORTING 20 TONS OF PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES TO LIBYA.
RAFFIO, WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A FIVE-YEAR ASSOCIATE OF WILSON IN
LIBYA, SAID IN THE INTERVIEW TODAY HE EXPECTS TO BE A PROSECUTION
WITNESS AT THE HOUSTON TRIAL, WHICH BEGINS NEXT WEEK.
ASKED WHY HE HAD WAITED UNTIL LAST WEEK TO GO TO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES
WITH HIS STORY, RAFFIO REPLIED: ''I TURNED MYSELF IN ESSENTIALLY
BECAUSE I FELT THAT THE TRANSFER OF THIS KIND OF MATERIAL JUST
COULDN'T TAKE PLACE.''
RAFFIO SAID HE KNEW THE PLO WAS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSACTION BECAUSE
''I WAS PRESENT AT A NUMBER OF MEETINGS WHEN HE (WILSON) DISCUSSED
THE TRANSFER WITH THE PLO, BUT AT THE TIME THEY SEEMED VERY
DISINTERESTED.''